

U.S. House of Representatives
112th Congress

EMPLOYEE
POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

This form is for disclosing the receipt of travel expenses from private sources for meetings, speaking engagements, fact-finding trips or similar events in connection with official duties. You need not disclose government-funded or political travel on this form, or travel that is unrelated to official duties. This form does not eliminate the need to report all privately-funded travel on the annual Financial Disclosure Statements of those persons required to file them. In accordance with clause 5 of House Rule 25, complete this form and file it with the Clerk of the House of Representatives, B-106 Cannon House Office Building, within **15 days** after travel is completed. The Clerk is to make these forms publicly available as soon as possible after they are received. *Obtain the dollar amounts from the sponsor; if exact dollar amounts are unavailable, provide a good faith estimate.*

Name of Employee (print or type): Michael Essington

Name of Accompanying Family Member (if any): N/A

Relationship to Employee: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child ☐ Other (specify): _____

Date of Departure and Date of Return: October 14, 2011 / October 22, 2011

Dates at Personal Expense: N/A

Itinerary (cities of departure – destination – return): Washington DC-Istanbul-

Washington DC

Sponsor(s) (who paid for the trip): Turkish American Federation of Midwest (TAFM)

Describe meetings and events attended (attach additional pages if necessary): See attached
itinerary.

Attached to this form are EACH of the following (signify "yes" for each item by checking the corresponding box):

1. ☒ the Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form completed by trip sponsor, including all attachments;
2. ☒ the Privately-Sponsored Travel Approval Form completed by the employee; **and**
3. ☒ the Committee on Ethics letter approving my participation on this trip.

I represent that I participated in each of the activities reflected in the sponsor's agenda (signify "yes" by checking box): ☒

If not, explain: _____

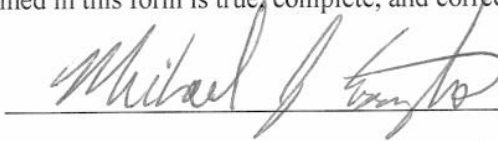
TRAVEL EXPENSES:

	Total Transportation Expenses	Total Lodging Expenses	Total Meal Expenses
For employee:	1294.60	665.00	320.00
For accompanying family member:			

	Other Expenses (dollar amount)	Specific Nature of Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For employee:	240.00	Parking and museum expenses
For accompanying family member:		

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

SIGNATURE OF EMPLOYEE:



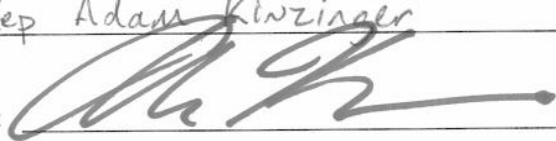
DATE: 11-1-11

I authorized this travel in advance. I have determined that all of the expenses listed above were necessary and that the travel was in connection with the employee's official duties and would not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

NAME OF SUPERVISING MEMBER:

Rep Adam Kinzinger

SIGNATURE OF SUPERVISING MEMBER:



DATE: 11-1-11

Date &	City	PROGRAM	NOTES
14-Oct. Friday	CHICAGO		
		Meet at the counter of Turkish Airlines	
10:55 PM		Depart from DC to Istanbul	
15-Oct.	ISTANBUL		
4:10 PM		Arrive at Istanbul Ataturk Airport	
6:00 PM		Check-in hotel	
8:00 PM		Dinner	
10:00PM		Return to hotel	
16-Oct. Sunday	ISTANBUL		
7:00 - 8:00 AM		Breakfast at Hotel	
8:00 AM		Lecture by Historian on the Byzantium, Ottoman Empires and Modern Turkish History	
9:30 AM		Visiting Topkapi Palace And Hagia Sophia Museum	
1:00 PM		Lunch at Muradan Restaurant at Historical Sultan Ahmet (Blue Mosque) Square	
2:00 PM		Cultural Site Visits to Blue Mosque, Roman Hippodrome Square and Underground Basilica Cistern	
4:00 PM		Back to Hotel	
5:30 PM		Meet at the Hotel Lobby	
7:30PM		Dinner	
10:00 PM		Back to Hotel	
17-Oct.	ANKARA		
6:00 AM		Breakfast at the hotel	
9:00 AM		Flight to Ankara	
10:00 AM		Arrive at Ankara	
11:00 AM		Hotel Check in	
12:00 PM		Lunch at a restaurant	
1:00 PM		Visit Anatolian Civilizations Museum and explore about ancient civilizations in Turkey	
3:30 PM		Visit Ataturk's Mausoleum and explore about Turkish Independence War	
6:00 PM		Return Hotel	
7:30 PM		Dinner with Government Officials	
9:30 PM		Return Hotel	
18-Oct.	ANKARA		
10:30am		Visit US Embassy	
11:30AM-		Visit Ministry of EU Affairs: Briefing on Turkey as a regional power; Turkey's relationship with the European Union	
12:30PM		Lunch roundtable with Ministry of Foreign Affairs	
12:00am		Visit Grand National Assembly of Turkey meeting with the members of parliament	
1:00pm		Visit MP Mr. Mustafa Elitas / Deputy Speaker of the Parliament	
2:00pm		Visit Deputy Minister of Industry and Technology	
4:30pm			

5:30 PM		Visit Cankaya Mansion (the official residence of the President of Turkey)	
7:30pm		Dinner with businessmen	
19-Oct. Wednesday	IZMIR		
6:00 AM - 7:30 AM		Breakfast at Hotel in Ankara	
7:30 AM		Meet at the Hotel Lobby to go to Esenboga Airport	
9:20 AM		Fly from Ankara to Izmir	
10:40 AM		Arrive at Izmir Adnan Menderes Airport	
11:00 AM		Drive directly to the ruins of Ephesus	
		Lecture on Turkish Pottery and Ceramics: History of figures and colors at the Ceramics Art Center	
12:00 PM		Lunch	
1:00 PM		Visit Virgin Mary's House	
2:00 PM		Visit the ruins of Ephesus Ancient city	
5:00 PM		Depart from Ephesos to Izmir	
6:30 PM		Check in to Hotel	
8:00PM		Dinner	
10:00 PM		Back to hotel	
20-Oct.	ISTANBUL		
6:30 AM		Breakfast at the Hotel	
9:00AM		Flight to Istanbul	
11:00 AM		Hotel check in	
12:30 PM		Lunch	
1:30 PM		Lecture by Turkish journalists on "Democracy and Freedom of Press in Turkey" @ ZAMAN Newspaper	
3:00 PM		Take the Bosphorus Bridge by bus to the Asian Continent	
4:00 PM		Lecture on Social Movements & Intercultural Dialog Efforts in Turkiye @ the Journalists and Writers Foundation	
6:00 PM		Dinner	
7:30PM		Free Time at Ortakoy	
9:00PM		Return to hotel	
21-Oct Friday	ISTANBUL		
7:00AM		Breakfast at the hotel	
8:00AM		Departure from the Hotel	
9:00AM		Visit Greek Orthodox Patriarchate: Debrief on Christian Minority Issues in Turkey	
10:30AM		Visiting Dolmabahce Palace	
1:00PM		Lunch at a restaurant by the Dolmabahce Palace	
2:30 PM		Lecture on Turkey's Development, Trade and Business at the Cultural Introduction @ ISPAT: The Republic of Turkey Prime Ministry Investment Support and Promotion Agency of Turkey	

4:00PM		Grand Bazaar	
7:00PM		Free Time	
6:30 PM		Meet at the hotel lobby	
8:00 PM		Dinner Meeting with Journalist Mr. Mustafa Akyol Discussion on Turkish Media and Politics at a	
9:00 PM		Back to Hotel	
22-Oct.	Istanbul		
7:00 AM		Breakfast at hotel	
11:20 AM		Flight to London	
		Flight to Dulles INTL	

Jo Bonner, Alabama
Chairman
Linda T. Sánchez, California
Ranking Member



Michael T. McCaul, Texas
K. Michael Conaway, Texas
Charles W. Dent, Pennsylvania
Gregg Harper, Mississippi

John A. Yarmuth, Kentucky
Donna F. Edwards, Maryland
Pedro R. Pierluisi, Puerto Rico
Joe Courtney, Connecticut

ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

October 6, 2011

Daniel A. Schwager
Staff Director and Chief Counsel

Joanne White
Administrative Staff Director

Kelle A. Strickland
Counsel to the Chairman

Daniel J. Taylor
Counsel to the Ranking Member

1015 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6328
Telephone: (202) 225-7103
Facsimile: (202) 225-7392

Mr. Michael Essington
Office of the Honorable Adam Kinzinger
1218 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Essington:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Turkey, scheduled for October 14 to 22, 2011, sponsored by the Turkish American Federation of Midwest.

You must complete an Employee Travel Disclosure Form (which your employing Member must also sign) and file it with the Clerk of the House within 15 days after your return from travel. As part of that filing, you are required to attach a copy of this letter and the Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form, including all attachments. You must also include a copy of the Traveler Form completed by you and signed by your employing Member. If you are required to file an annual Financial Disclosure Statement, you must also report all travel expenses totaling more than \$350 from a single source on Schedule VII of that statement.

Because the trip may involve meetings with foreign government representatives, we note that House employees may accept, under the Foreign Gifts and Decorations Act, gifts "of minimal value [currently \$350] tendered as a souvenir or mark of courtesy" by a foreign government. Any tangible gifts valued in excess of \$350 received from a foreign government must, within 60 days of acceptance, be disclosed on a Form for Disclosing Gifts from Foreign Governments and either turned over to the Clerk of the House, or, with the written approval of the Committee, retained for official use.

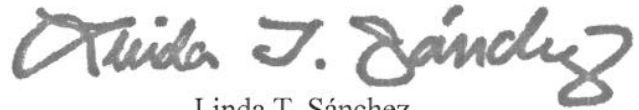
Mr. Michael Essington
Page 2

If you have any further questions, please contact the Committee's Office of Advice and Education at extension 5-7103.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jo Bonner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jo" and last name "Bonner" clearly distinguishable.

Jo Bonner
Chairman

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Linda T. Sanchez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Linda" and last name "Sanchez" clearly distinguishable.

Linda T. Sánchez
Ranking Member

JB/LTS:tn

RECEIVED

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Ethics

2011 SEP 30 PM 3:00
PRIVATELY SPONSORED TRAVEL: TRAVELER FORM
For Members, Officers, and Employees
COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

This form should be completed by House Members, officers, or employees seeking Committee approval of privately-sponsored travel or reimbursement for travel under House Rule 25, clause 5. The completed form should be submitted directly to the Committee by each invited House Member, officer, or employee, together with the completed and signed Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form and any attachments. A copy of this form, minus this initial page, will be made available for public inspection. *Please type form. Form (and any attachments) may be faxed to the Committee at (202) 225-7392.*

YOUR COMPLETED REQUEST MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE COMMITTEE NO LESS THAN 14 DAYS BEFORE YOUR PROPOSED DEPARTURE DATE. Absent exceptional circumstances, permission will not be granted for requests received less than 14 days before the trip commences.

Name of Traveler: Michael J. Essington

I certify that the information contained on both pages of this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: Michael J. Essington

Name of Signatory (if other than traveler): _____

For staff, name of employing Member/Committee: Rep. Adam Kinzinger

Office address: 1218 LHOB

Phone number: 5-3635

Email address of contact person: pamela.mattox@mail.house.gov

- ☐ Check this box if the sponsoring entity is a media outlet and the traveler is a Member traveling to make a media appearance sponsored by that entity and these forms are being submitted to the Committee less than 14 days before the trip departure date.

NOTE: You must complete the contact information fields above, as Committee staff may need to contact you if additional information is required.

If there are any questions regarding this form please contact the Committee:

Committee on Ethics
U.S. House of Representatives
1015 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-7103 (phone)
(202) 225-7392 (fax)

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Ethics

PRIVATELY SPONSORED TRAVEL: TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Michael J. Essington
2. Sponsor(s) (who will be paying for the trip): Turkish American Federation of Midwest
3. Travel destination(s): Istanbul, Turkey
4. a. Date of Departure and Date of Return: October 14, 2011 / October 22, 2011
b. Will you be extending the trip at your personal expense? ☐ Yes ☒ No
If yes, dates at personal expense: _____
5. a. Will you be accompanied by a family member at the sponsor's expense? ☐ Yes ☒ No
b. If yes, name of accompanying family member: _____
c. Relationship to traveler: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child ☐ Other (specify): _____
6. a. Did the trip sponsor answer "yes" to Question 9(c) on the Trip Sponsor form (i.e., the travel is being sponsored by an entity that employs a lobbyist)? ☐ Yes ☒ No
b. If yes, check one of the following: ☐ N/A – Sponsor checked 9(a) or 9(b)
(1) Approval for one-night's lodging and meals is being requested: ☐ or
(2) Approval for two-nights' lodging and meals is being requested: ☐
If "(2)" is checked, explain why the second night is warranted: _____
7. Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form is attached, including agenda, invitee list, and any other attachments (indicate that form is attached by checking box): ☒
8. Explain why participation in the trip is connected to your individual official or representational duties:
Understand the political, economic and social issues in Turkey related to economic development, finance, military and trade as they relate to my official duties.

9. **FOR STAFF:**
TO BE COMPLETED BY YOUR EMPLOYING MEMBER:

I hereby authorize the individual named above, an employee of the U.S. House of Representatives who works under my direct supervision, to accept expenses for the trip described in this request. I have determined that the above-described travel is in connection with my employee's official duties and that acceptance of these expenses will not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Date: 9/30/11



Signature of Employing Member

NOTE: This page must be submitted with your post-travel disclosure form within 15 days of your return, so you should maintain a photocopy of the completed form for your records.

**U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Ethics**

**PRIVATE SPONSOR TRAVEL CERTIFICATION FORM
(provide directly to each House invitee)**

This form should be completed by private entities offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to House Members, officers or employees under House Rule XXV, clause 5. A completed copy of the form (and any attachments) should be provided to each invited House Member, officer or employee, who will then forward it to the Committee. The trip sponsor should NOT submit the form directly to the Committee.

Private sponsors are urged to submit this form to each House invitee at least 30 days before travel is scheduled to begin. The failure to provide the Committee with adequate time to review the form and attachments may result in the invitee not receiving approval for the trip. The submission of an incomplete form will delay the review process. Before completing this form, sponsors are urged to carefully review the Committee's private travel guidelines and advisory memoranda detailing the rules and restrictions for private travel, as well as the instructions for completing this form. Sponsors should call the Committee with any questions prior to submitting the form. Please type form.

1. Sponsor(s) (who will be paying for the trip): Turkish American Federation of Midwest (TAFM)
2. I represent that the trip will not be financed (in whole or in part) by a federally-registered lobbyist or a registered foreign agent (signify "yes" by checking box): ☒
3. I represent that the trip sponsor(s) has not accepted from any other source funds earmarked directly or indirectly to finance any aspect of the trip (signify "yes" by checking box): ☒
4. Is travel being offered to an accompanying family member of the House invitee(s)? ☐ Yes ☒ No
5. Provide names and titles of ALL House invitees; for each invitee, provide explanation of why the individual was invited (include additional pages if necessary): See the attached list.
6. Dates of travel: October 14-22, 2011
7. Cities of departure – destination – return: Washington DC-Istanbul-Washington DC
8. Attached is a detailed agenda of the activities taking place during the travel (i.e., an hourly description of planned activities) (signify "yes" by checking box): ☒
9. I represent that (check one of the following):
 - a. The sponsor of the trip is an institution of higher education within the meaning of section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965: ☐ or
 - b. The sponsor of the trip does not retain or employ a federally registered lobbyist or registered foreign agent: ☒ or
 - c. The trip is for attendance at a one-day event and lobbyist involvement in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the Committee's travel regulations. ☐
10. If travel is for participation in a one-day event (i.e., if you checked Question 9(c)), check one of the following:
 - a. One-night's lodging and meals are being offered: ☐ or
 - b. Two-nights' lodging and meals are being offered: ☐If "b" is checked, explain why the second night is warranted: _____

11. If the trip is not sponsored by an institution of higher education, I represent that a federally-registered lobbyist or foreign agent will not accompany House Members or employees on any segment of the trip (*signify "yes" by checking box*): ☒
12. Private sponsors must have a direct and immediate relationship to the purpose of the trip or location being visited. Describe the role of each sponsor in organizing and conducting the trip: TAFM aims to promote mutual understanding through interaction between the Congressional staffers and Turkish people.
13. Describe each sponsor's organizational interest in the purpose of the trip: The purpose of the trip is to provide a first-hand experience to staffers to explore political, economic and social issues in Turkey.
14. Describe the type and class of the transportation being provided. Indicate whether coach, business-class or first-class transportation will be provided. In addition, for travel via aircraft, please indicate if travel is being offered on a commercial flight, chartered flight or on an aircraft operated or paid for by a carrier not licensed by the Federal Aviation Administration to operate for compensation or hire (*i.e.*, a private aircraft). If first-class fare is being provided, or if travel is via chartered or private aircraft, please provide an explanation describing why such travel is warranted: Air travel (commercial coach) and ground.
15. I represent that the expenditures related to local area travel during the trip will be unrelated to personal or recreational activities of the invitee(s). (*signify "yes" by checking box*): ☒
16. I represent that either (*check one of the following*):
- The trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation and that meals provided to congressional participants are similar to those provided to or purchased by other event attendees: ☐ *or*
 - The trip involves events that are arranged or organized *specifically with regard* to congressional participation: ☒
If "b" is checked, detail the cost per day of meals (approximate cost may be provided): \$45
17. Reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: Turkey is historically a strategic ally to the US in regards to its policies in the Middle East and Europe.
18. Name of hotel or other lodging facility: Ramada Istanbul, Metropolitan Ankara, El Ruha Urfa, Dedeman Gaziantep
19. Cost per night of hotel or other lodging facility (approximate cost may be provided): Ramada \$100, Metropolitan \$90, El Ruha \$70/night, Dedeman \$85
20. Reason(s) for selecting hotel or other lodging facility: Location and affordability


21. TOTAL EXPENSES FOR EACH PARTICIPANT:

<input type="checkbox"/> actual amounts <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good faith estimates	Total <i>Transportation</i> Expenses per Participant	Total <i>Lodging</i> Expenses per Participant	Total <i>Meal</i> Expenses per Participant
For each Member, Officer, or employee	\$1,350 air, \$300 ground	\$635	\$300
For each accompanying family member			

	<i>Other</i> Expenses (dollar amount)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or employee	\$250	parking and museum entrance fees
For each accompanying family member		

22. I represent that reimbursement for miscellaneous travel expenses for the trip, such as travel to and from airports, security costs, interpreter fees, visa application fees, and similar expenses, will be for actual costs incurred and are necessary for the purpose of the trip (signify "yes" by checking box): ☒

23. I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: 
 Name and title: Suleyman Turhanogullari, President
 Organization: Turkish American Federation of Midwest (TAFM)
 Address: 501 Midway Dr., Mount Prospect, IL 60056
 Telephone number: 312-215-2337
 Fax number: 847-789-0043
 Email Address: sturhan@turkishfederation.org

The Committee staff may contact the above individual above if additional information is required.

If there are any questions regarding this form please contact the Committee at the following address:

Committee on Ethics
 U.S. House of Representatives
 1015 Longworth House Office Building
 Washington, DC 20515
 (202) 225-7103 (phone)
 (202) 225-7392 (fax)

Turkey Trip Invitees

Date: Oct. 14-22, 2011

Organization: Turkish American Federation of Midwest

Names and Offices:

Will Adams, Representative Amash-MI

Jean Hinz, Representative Kline-MN

Caroline Battles, Representative Carnahan-MO

Kim Rudolph, Representative Carson-IN

~~Erik Rayman~~, Representative Kinzinger-IL

MICHAEL ESSINGTON

Steven Shearer, Representative Schock-IL

Timothy Robinson, Representative Rush-IL

Jennice Fuentes, Representative Gutierrez-IL

Sean O'Brien, Representative Quigley-IL

Cathy Hurwit, Representative Schakowsky-IL



TURKISH AMERICAN
FEDERATION OF MIDWEST

Congressional Trip to Turkey

14 - 22 October 2011



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface 3

Agreement 4

Introduction 5

Project Summary 6

Tentative Itinerary 9

Visa & Embassy / Consulate Information 14

Useful Information 14

Greetings!

We would be extremely delighted and have the utmost pleasure in having you attend our Congressional trip to The Republic of Turkey. We believe and hope that this trip will be an unforgettable journey, from the history and culture to the warm hospitality of the people.

This letter includes terms and conditions of the trip offered by the Turkish American Federation of Midwest (TAFM). This trip will take place between October 14th and October 22nd. The participants will depart on Friday, October 14th, from Washington DC Dulles International Airport, and return back to Washington DC Dulles International Airport on Saturday, October 22nd.

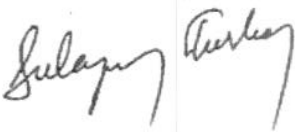
Trip Cost

All trip costs including roundtrip from **Washington DC** to **ISTANBUL** and back to **Washington DC** will be covered by TAFM. In case of an unforeseen event that would require you to cancel the trip after you have accepted, please contact us immediately.

Alternative dates

In case you cannot make the trip on the specified dates, TAFM is happy to consider another time frame. If you would like to receive more information on other dates please contact us.

There will be an orientation meeting in which a tentative itinerary will be discussed, useful tips for the trip will be presented, and questions regarding the trip will be answered. If you are interested in joining the trip this year please fill out the form below and email/fax it to TAFM.



Suleyman Turhan
President
Turkish American Federation of Midwest (TAFM)

Agreement

I have read and accepted the terms and conditions of the Congressional Trip to Turkey that is sponsored by TAFM which will take place between October 14th – 22nd, 2011

Participant Full Name (as appears on your passport): Michael John Essington
DOB: 5-11-1978

Contact Person in the office: Pamela Mattox

Telephone Number: 202-225-3635

E-mail address: pamela.mattox@mail.house.gov

Date: 9/30/2011

Signature: Michael J Essington

INTRODUCTION

Program Sponsor:

Turkish American Federation of Midwest (TAFM)

TAFM is established as a non-governmental, not-for-profit organization with the mere purpose of bringing people together with interest in the American and Turkish cultures. TAFM is a leading, independent and an umbrella organization committed to advancing the interaction among American and Turkish people to promote and encourage continuing good relationship and understanding through its affiliate organizations regardless of their ethnic origin, religion and other preferences. TAFM brings people together by hosting public programs and private events featuring leaders and experts with diverse views on a wide range of global and regional topics through task forces, executive forums, luncheons, conferences, studies, and leadership dialogue. TAFM's mission is to promote the cultural, educational, academic, business, social and arts relations and to organize events and activities to bring together the American and Turkish communities within the US

There are 43 non-profit and non-governmental member organizations united under TAFM in the states of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, S. Dakota and N. Dakota.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Suleyman Turhan
President
TAFM
501 Midway Dr. Mount Prospect, IL 60056
Work: (847) 227-8380
Cell: (312) 215-2337
Fax: (847) 789-0043
sturhan@turkishfederation.org
www.turkishfederation.org

PROJECT SUMMARY

Turkish American Federation of Midwest (TAFM) organizes a Congressional trip to Turkey.

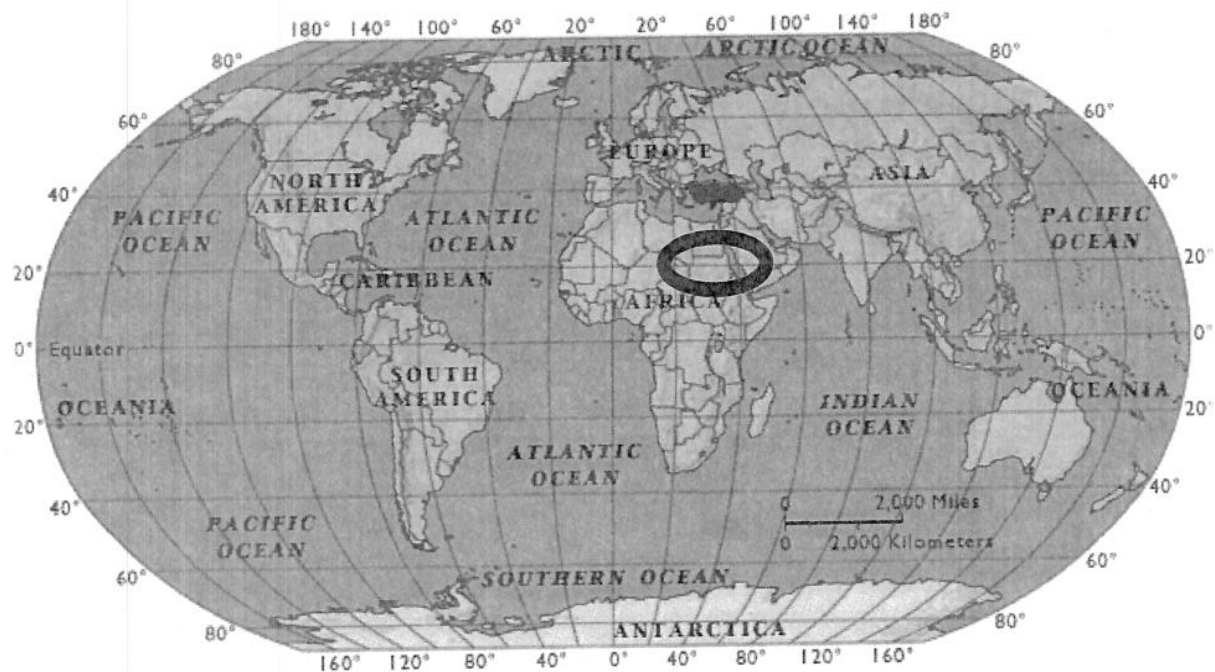
TAFM has outlined the following specific objectives for the project

- ✦ To introduce and provide broad exposure to cultural, social, economic, educational and political issues in Turkey.
- ✦ To gain an understanding of relevant topics including Turkey's trade, economic development & finance, remarkable educational achievements of Turkish civil society, religious diversity, minority rights and foreign policy.
- ✦ To promote intercultural understanding through dialogue and discussion among American and Turkish participants.

TURKEY IN BRIEF

Official Name of Country	Republic of Turkey
Capital City	Ankara
Government	Parliamentary Democracy
Population	74 million (2010)
Labor Force (Population)	25.9 million (October 2010)
Median Age	29.2 (2010)
Official Language	Turkish
President	Abdullah Gul
Prime Minister	Recep Tayyip Erdogan
Area	783,562.38 km ²
Time Zone	GMT +2
Neighboring Countries	Bulgaria, Greece, Syria, Iraq, Iran, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia
Major Cities (Population)	Istanbul (13.3 million), Ankara (4.8 million), Izmir (3.9 million), Bursa (2.6 million), Adana (2.1)
Climate	Temperate; hot, dry summers with mild, wet winters
Telephone Code	90
Country Code Top-Level Domain	.tr
Electricity Voltage	220 V, 50 Hz
Currency	Turkish Lira (TRY) 1\$=1.5
Financial Center	Istanbul

GDP	USD 736 billion (2010 - Current Prices)
GDP Per Capita	USD 10,079 (2010)
Exports Value	USD 114 billion (2010)
Imports Value	USD 185 billion (2010)
Tourism Revenue	USD 20.8 billion (2010)
Tourist Number	28.5 million people (2010)
Foreign Direct Investment	USD 9.1 billion (2010)
Number of Companies with Foreign Capital	25,500 (2010)
Inflation Rate	6.4% (CPI - 2010)
Major Exports Markets	Germany (10.1%); UK (6.3%); Italy (5.7%); Iraq (5.3%); France (5.3%) (2010)
Major Imports Sources	Russia (11.6%); Germany (9.5%); China (9.3%); USA (6.6%); Italy (5.5%) (2010)
Trade Agreements	Free Trade Agreements with Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia, EFTA member countries (Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein), Egypt, Georgia, Israel, Macedonia, Montenegro, Morocco, Palestine, Serbia, Syria, Tunisia
Traffic Flow	Right
Airports	45 (13 international)



Date & Time	City	Notes
14-Oct. Friday	DC	
8:00 PM		Meet at the counter of Turkish Airlines / Dulles Intl. Airport (IAD)
10:55 PM		Depart from DC to Istanbul - Fly with Turkish Airlines TK008
15-Oct. Saturday	ISTANBUL	
4:10 PM		Arrive at Istanbul Ataturk Airport
6:00 PM		Hotel Check-in
7:00 PM		Dinner
9:30 PM		Return to hotel
		Overnight in Istanbul
16-Oct. Sunday	ISTANBUL	
7:00 - 8:00 AM		Breakfast at Hotel
8:00 AM		Lecture #1 by Historian on the Byzantium, Ottoman Empires and Modern Turkish History @ Hotel Conference Room
9:30 AM		Cultural Site Visits to Topkapi Palace And Hagia Sophia Museum
1:00 PM		Lunch at Historical Sultan Ahmet Square
2:00 PM		Cultural Site Visits to Blue Mosque, Hippodrome Square
4:00 PM		Back to Hotel
5:30 PM		Meet at the Hotel Lobby
6:00 PM		Bosphorus Boat Tour
		Visit a Local Turkish Family
10:00 PM		Back to Hotel
		Overnight in Istanbul
17-Oct. Monday	ISTANBUL	
7:00 - 8:00 AM		Breakfast at the Hotel
8:30 AM		Visit Greek Orthodox Patriarchate & Attend the morning mass: Debrief on Christian Minority Issues in Turkey
11:00 AM		Lecture #2 by Turkish journalists on "Democracy and Freedom of Press in Turkey" @ ZAMAN Newspaper
12:30 PM		Lunch
1:30 PM		Lecture #3 on Turkey's Development, Trade and Business at the Cultural Introduction @ ISPAT: The Republic of Turkey Prime Ministry Investment Support and Promotion Agency of Turkey
3:00 PM		Take the Bosphorus Bridge by bus to the Asian Continent

4:30 PM		Lecture #4 on Social Movements & Intercultural Dialog Efforts in Turkiye @ the Journalists and Writers Foundation
6:00 PM		Drive to Sabiha Gokcen Airport (SAW)
8:15 PM	Turkish Airlines - TK2906	Fly to Ankara
9:15 PM		Arrive at Esenboga Airport in Ankara
10:00 PM		Hotel Check-in
		Overnight in Ankara
18-Oct. Tuesday	ANKARA	
8:00 AM		Visit Ankara Municipality: Briefing on municipal policies in Turkey
10:00 AM		Visit Ministry of EU Affairs
10:00 AM		Lecture #5 on Turkey as a regional power; Turkey's relationship with the European Union
11:30 AM		Visit Ataturk's Mausoleum
1:00 PM		Visit Omer Celik, Parliamentarian
2:30 PM		Meet with Ambassador Francis J. Ricciardone, US Embassy: Debriefing about Turkish-US Relations
4:30 PM		Visit the Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Debrief on Recent Developments in the region, Arab Spring and the Syrian Turmoil
5:30 PM		Return to hotel
7:30 PM		Dinner
10:00 PM		Return to hotel
		Overnight in Ankara
19-Oct. Wednesday	IZMIR	
6:00 AM - 7:30 AM		Breakfast at Hotel in Ankara
7:30 AM		Meet at the Hotel Lobby to go to Esenboga Airport
9:20 AM	Turkish Airlines - TK7002	Fly from Ankara to Izmir
10:40 AM		Arrive at Izmir Adnan Menderes Airport
11:00 AM		Drive to Ephesos
		Lecture #6 on Turkish Pottery and Ceramics: History of figures and colors at the Ceramics Art Center
12:00 PM		Lunch
1:00 PM		Visit Virgin Mary's House
2:00 PM		Visit the ruins of Ephesos Ancient city
5:00 PM		Depart from Ephesos to Izmir
6:30 PM		Arrive at Izmir Adnan Menderes Airport
7:55 PM	Sun Express - XQ9128	Fly from Izmir to Gaziantep
9:35 PM		Arrive Gaziantep
10:00 PM		Hotel Check-in

		Overnight in Gaziantep
20-Oct. Thursday	GAZIANTE P - URFA	
7:30 AM		Breakfast at Hotel in Gaziantep
8:30 AM		Meet at the Hotel Lobby
9:00 AM		Lecture #7 by Gokhan Bacik on Kurdish Issues and Democratization Process in South East Turkey at ZIRVE UNIVERSITY
10:00 AM		Visit Zirve University: Debrief on Higher Educational System in Turkiye / Meet with President and Academicians
11:30 AM		Visit Local, Historical Copper Bazaar - Bakircilar Carsisi
12:30 PM		Visit Governor of Gaziantep: Debrief on social issues in South East part of Turkey: Kurdish-Turkish relations in the region
1:30 PM		Drive to Urfa - 144 Kilometers / 90 Miles
3:00 PM		Arrive Urfa
		Visit Balikligol (Fish Pool)
		Visit Prophet Abraham's Birth Cave
		Visit Gobeklitepe (Potbelly Hill) - 12,000 years history
6:00 PM		Check in Hotel in URFA
7:30 PM		Attend Cultural Ceremony of URFA - "Urfa Sira Geceleri "
9:00 PM		Back to Hotel
		Overnight in URFA
21-Oct. Friday	ISTANBUL	
6:00 AM - 8:30 AM		Breakfast at Hotel
9:45 AM	Turkish Airlines - TK2247	Fly from Urfa to Istanbul
11:40 AM		Arrive Istanbul Ataturk Airport
12:30 PM		Check in Hotel in Istanbul
2:00 PM		Visit Dolmabahce Palace - Learn about late Ottoman History
4:00 PM		Cultural Exploration at Historical Grand Bazaar
6:30 PM		Meet at the Hotel Lobby
7:30 PM		Meeting with Journalist Mr. Mustafa Akyol Discussion on Turkish Media and Politics
9:00 PM		Back to Hotel
22-Oct. Saturday	Istanbul	
6:00 AM		Breakfast at hotel
10:30 AM	TK1989	Flight from Istanbul to London
12:30 PM		Arrive at London (LHR)
4:20 PM	TK8671	Fly to Dulles Intl. (Operated by United Airlines)
7:34 PM		Arrive at IAD (same day)

* In case of any inconvenience, the best substitutes will be visited.

EMBASSY AND CONSULATE INFORMATION

U.S. Embassy - Ankara

110 Atatürk Blvd.

Kavaklıdere, 06100 Ankara / Türkiye

Phone: (90-312) 455-5555

Fax: (90-312) 467-0019

E-mail: webmaster_ankara@state.gov

U.S. Consulate General – Istanbul

İstinye Mahallesi, Kaplıcalar Mevkii No.2

İstinye 34460 - Istanbul / Turkey

Phone: (90) 212-335 90 00

Fax: (90-212) 335-9198

E-mail: acs_istanbul@state.gov

USEFUL INFORMATION

Time: Local time is equal to GMT + 2 hours. Same time zone all over the country (seven hours ahead of U.S. eastern standard time).

Electricity: 220 volts a.c. throughout Turkey

Weights and Measures: Metric and Kilo system

American Hospital in Istanbul

Güzelbahçe St. No:20 Nişantaşı/İstanbul /Turkey

Phone: +90 212 311 20 00 – 7511